

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. A method of incrementing a telecommunication customer's prepaid account with a prepaid administration system of a service provider comprising the steps of:

creating data for a scratch card batch at a recharge card management system of a service provider by service provider ~~or reseller~~ users;

said data comprising a scratch ~~number~~ numbers of said batch and reseller account identification data for identifying a reseller that manages and sells the ~~card batch~~;

manufacturing said batch by either said service provider or said reseller;

if said batch is manufactured by said reseller, providing said reseller with access to data for said batch;

selling a card of said batch; and

activating data for said card in said recharge card management system;

said management system maintained by a service provider;

said management system accessible only by authorized service provider or reseller users;

said management system for storing users' profile data in its database;

said reseller users limited to accessing card information with their account identification information;

said reseller card identification information for identifying a reseller and distributors below said reseller in said reseller's hierarchy;

~~selling said card to a customer and activating said data for said card in said database;~~

said customer calling a prepaid administration system to transfer the value of the scratch card to the customer's account;

if said scratch card is valid in said recharge card management system, responsive to the customer call, transferring a value of said card to said customer's account;

responsive to said transferring a value, invalidating said card in said recharge card management system; and

billing said reseller for an amount associated with the value of said card.

CLAIM 2 (original):

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
said prepaid administration system checking data received from said customer against data in a database of said recharge card management system to verify an authorization for incrementing said customer's prepaid account.

CLAIM 3 (original):

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of calling the prepaid administration system comprises the step of:

identifying the customer through a mobile identification number or a calling line identification number and the scratch number of said card.

CLAIM 4 (original):

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said users' profile contains data identifying a user name, a user password, a user account identification, and a user identification.

CLAIM 5 (original):

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a reseller can have multiple account identifications for distributors in a reseller's hierarchy.

CLAIM 6 (original):

6. The method of claim 1 wherein a user can input scratch card manufacturing data for the file at the recharge card management system.

CLAIM 7 (original):

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said manufacturing order file includes scratch card information, manufacturer name, reseller name, account identification and scratch number.

CLAIM 8 (original):

8. The method of claim 1 wherein a reseller user enters data for said scratch card in the card database of the recharge card management system, said data comprising an account identification of said reseller.

CLAIM 9 (original):

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said account identification of said reseller or an account identification of a distributor user is arranged in a hierarchy so that distributors can access data only for themselves or distributors further down in a

hierarchy of distributors and a reseller user can access data for all distributors below the reseller in said hierarchy.

CLAIM 10 (original):

10. The method of claim 1 wherein a reseller or distributor user can modify the card status during inventory and distribution.

CLAIM 11 (original):

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the data in the card database identifies the reseller and includes the account number of the reseller.

CLAIM 12 (original):

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
a reseller selling a card to a distributor; and
activating said card with an account number of the distributor.

CLAIM 13 (original):

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
marking the card as used after the customer's account has been incremented.

CLAIM 14 (currently amended):

14. Apparatus for controlling incrementing of a telecommunication customer's prepaid account with a prepaid administration system of a service provider comprising:
a recharge card management system for creating data for a scratch card batch by service provider ~~or reseller~~ users; and

means for manufacturing said batch by either said service provider or said reseller;

if said batch is manufactured by said reseller, means for providing said reseller with access to data for said batch;

means for selling a card of said batch; and

means for activating data for said card in said recharge card management system;

~~a prepaid administration system responsive to a call from said customer calling to transfer the value of the scratch card to the customer's account;~~

means for storing data for said batch, said data comprising a scratch number numbers and reseller account identification data for identifying a reseller that manages and sells the card batch;

said management system maintained by a service provider;
said management system accessible only by authorized service provider or reseller users;
said management system further for storing users' profile data in its database;
said reseller users limited to accessing card information with their account identification;
said reseller card identification information for identifying a reseller and distributors below said reseller in said reseller's hierarchy;
responsive to selling said card to a customer, said card management system for activating said data for said card in said database;
if said scratch card is valid in said recharge card management system, means, responsive to a customer call, for transferring a value of said card to said customer's account;
means, responsive to said transferring a value, for invalidating said card in said recharge card management system; and
means for billing said reseller for an amount associated with the value of said card.

CLAIM 15 (original):

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said prepaid administration system checks data received from said customer against data in a database of said recharge card management system to verify an authorization for incrementing said customer's prepaid account.

CLAIM 16 (original):

16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said recharge card management system is responsive to input from a user for creating manufacturing data for a database of said recharge card management system.

CLAIM 17 (original):

17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein a reseller user inputs data for said scratch card in a database of the recharge card management system, said data comprising an account identification of said reseller.

CLAIM 18 (currently amended):

18. The ~~method~~ apparatus of claim 14 wherein said account identification of said reseller or an account identification of a distributor user is arranged in a hierarchy so that distributors can access data only for themselves or distributors further down in a hierarchy of distributors and a reseller user can access data for all distributors below the reseller in said hierarchy.